

Claims:

1. A process for treating a composition comprising one or more undesired compounds and one or more desired compounds so as to 5 reduce the concentration of at least one of the undesired compounds, which process comprises the steps of:
 - (1) contacting the composition with an extraction solvent comprising a (hydro)fluorocarbon, and
 - (2) separating the solvent from the one or more desired compounds; 10 wherein one or more of the desired compounds is an inorganic material, provided that water is not the only desired material.
2. A process according to claim 1, wherein the inorganic material is a halogen containing inorganic material. 15
3. A process according to claim 2, wherein the inorganic material is a fluorine containing inorganic material.
4. A process according to claim 3, wherein the fluorine containing 20 material is an alkali metal fluoride or an alkaline earth metal fluoride.
5. A process according to claim 4, wherein the fluorine containing material is calcium fluoride or potassium fluoride.
- 25 6. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of the undesired compounds is odiferous.

7. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one of the undesired compounds is a sulfur and/or nitrogen containing compound.
- 5 8. A process according to claim 7, wherein the undesired sulphur containing compound is at least one of carbon disulfide, carbonyl sulfide, dimethyldisulfide, ethanethiol, diethyldisulfide, 1,3-dihydro-2H-imidazole-2-thione, 2-(methylthio)-propane, 2-(methylthio)-butane, 1-(methylthio)-butane, methylethyldisulfide, 2-(ethylthio)-butane, sec-butyl isopropylsulfide, 1-(ethylthio)-butane, 1-[(methylethyl)thio]butane and bis[2-(ethylthio)ethyl]ether.
- 10 9. A process according to claim 7, wherein the undesired nitrogen containing compound is at least one of ammonia, nitromethane, methylamine, dimethylamine, trimethylamine, LDA (lithium diisopropylamide), hydroxylamine, ureas, ethylamine, diethylamine, triethylamine, 1,3-dihydro-2H-imidazole-2-thione, N,N-dimethyl-ethanethioamide and 2,2-dimethoxy-N-methyl-ethanamine.
- 15 20 10. A process according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the composition is in the solid state or in the form of a slurry.
11. A process according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the composition is in the liquid phase.
- 25 12. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the extraction solvent comprises at least one (hydro)fluorocarbon

selected from the (hydro)fluoromethanes, the (hydro)fluoroethanes and the (hydro)fluoropropanes.

13. A process as claimed in claim 12, wherein the extraction solvent
5 comprises at least one (hydro)fluorocarbon selected from trifluoromethane (R-23), fluoromethane (R-41), difluoromethane (R-32), pentafluoroethane (R-125), 1,1,1-trifluoroethane (R-143a), 1,1,2,2-tetrafluoroethane (R-134), 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (R-134a), 1,1-difluoroethane (R-152a), 1,1,1,3,3-pentafluoropropane (R-245fa), 1,1,2,2,3-pentafluoropropane (R-245ca), 1,1,1,2,3-pentafluoropropane (R-245eb), 1,1,2,3,3-pentafluoropropane (R-245ea), 1,1,1,2,3,3-hexafluoropropane (R-236ea), 1,1,1,2,2,3-hexafluoropropane (R-236cb), 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropane (R-236fa), 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane (R-227ea) and 1,1,1,2,2,3,3-heptafluoropropane (R-227ca).
14. A process as claimed in claim 13, wherein the extraction solvent comprises at least one compound selected from 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (R-134a), 1,1,1,3,3-pentafluoropropane (R-245fa), 1,1,1,2,3,3-hexafluoropropane (R-236ea) and 1,1,1,2,3,3,3-heptafluoropropane (R-227ea).
15. A process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the extraction solvent comprises 1,1,1,2-tetrafluoroethane (R-134a).

16. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the extraction solvent comprises a co-solvent in addition to the (hydro)fluorocarbon.

5 17. A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the co-solvent is halogen free.

18. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims which is conducted at a temperature in the range of from 0 to 30°C.

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19. A process as claimed in any one of the preceding claims which is conducted at a pressure in the range of from 1 to 30 bar.